

CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR., MD  
7TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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INCOME SECURITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT



LAFAYETTE DISTRICT OFFICE:

800 LAFAYETTE STREET  
SUITE 1400  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70501  
(337) 235-6322

LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT OFFICE:

ONE LAKESHORE DRIVE  
SUITE 1775  
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70629  
(337) 433-1747

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:

1117 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2031

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0304

August 4, 2010

The Honorable Ray Mabus  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20305

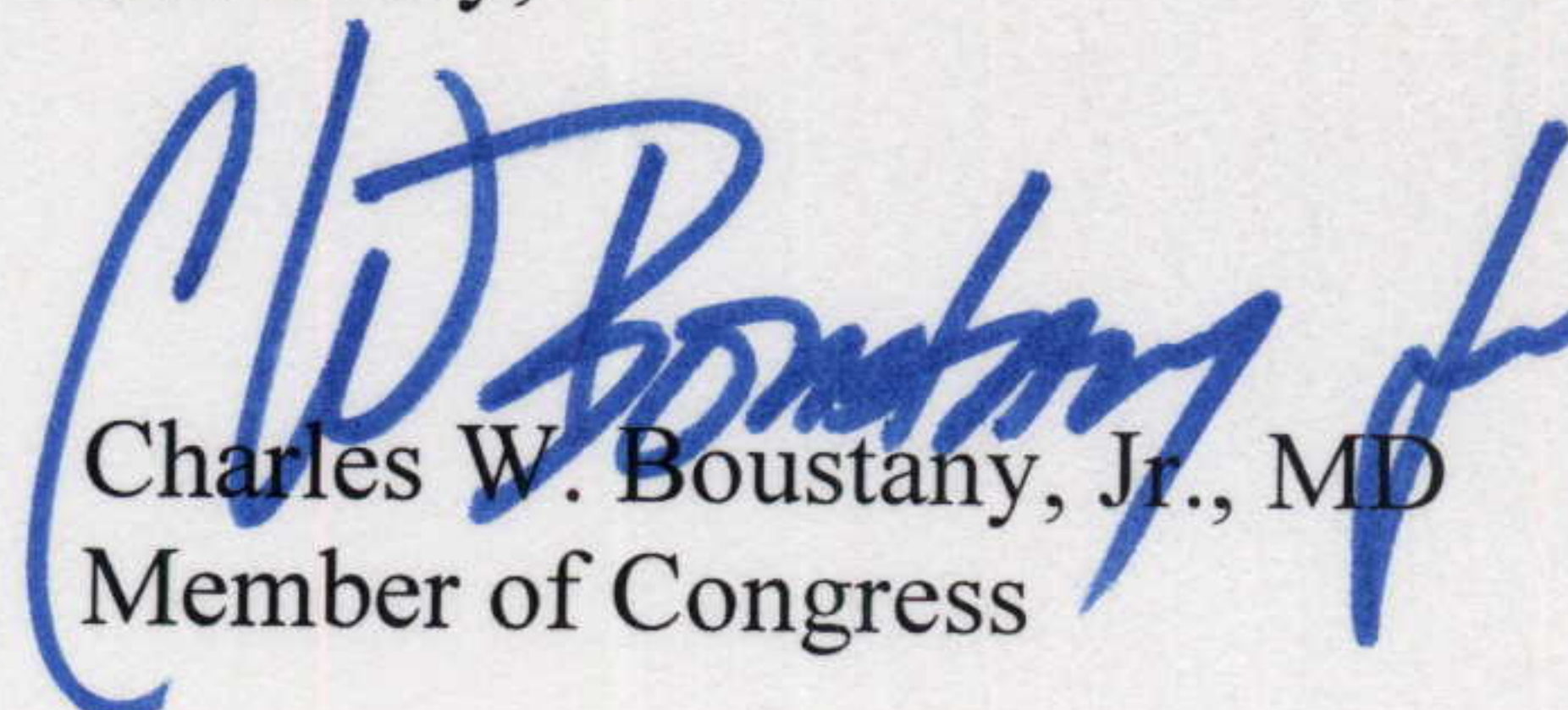
Dear Secretary Mabus:

On Thursday, August 5th, you will hold Town Hall meetings in Houma and Buras, Louisiana to discuss the need for successful, long-term economic and ecological recovery and restoration of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. In the past five years, four hurricanes and the Deepwater Horizon tragedy have contributed to further erosion of our delicate coastline. I appreciate you meeting with the residents who have spent their lives in the working wetlands of Louisiana to hear their concerns and plans for a full recovery and restoration of the Gulf Coast.

I have made a commitment to restore Southwest Louisiana's wetlands. Making sure that our region is not forgotten remains a top priority of mine. Since Hurricane Rita struck Louisiana's Southwest coast in 2005, I have secured funding for the first ever hurricane protection study for the area. I continue to work closely with the Corps of Engineers, the state, and local stakeholders to ensure that coastal restoration is an important component of our hurricane protection efforts. I also included language in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act to ensure the study is expedited by the Corps and proposed projects are not delayed. I now urge you, as President Obama's long-term Gulf Coast restoration coordinator, to share this commitment with me by holding a Town Hall meeting on Southwest Louisiana's coast in the near future.

I look forward to working with you to restore Louisiana's coastline and will offer you any help or information you and your office need in order to hold a Gulf Coast restoration Town Hall in Southwest Louisiana.

Sincerely,

  
Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD  
Member of Congress